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Shultz favors covert action, seeks support

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Secretary of State George Shultz said yesterday the United States must be able to use covert action as well as military force against terrorists and urged other democracies to back U.S. policy.

In a speech prepared for delivery to the American Jewish Committee's 80th annual dinner, Mr. Shultz also defended the proposed U.S. sale of \$354 million of missiles to Saudi Arabia as something that is not only in the U.S. interest in the Persian Gulf, but also in Israel's.

Mr. Shultz said: "The danger is real. If Khomeini-ism advances into that area, America's strategic interests will be harmed — and needless to say, so will Israel's."

Both the House and Senate have rejected the Saudi arms sale, and President Reagan is weighing whether the issue is worth a veto fight with Congress.

In his speech, Mr. Shultz reiterated his view that Western nations must stand united against terrorism because it threatens them all.

The evidence is easily available that democratic nations can be destroyed by "terrorist networks, communist insurgents, bandits, criminals and narcotics traffickers who tear at the fabric of society," he said.

Referring to the U.S. military strikes against Libya, Mr. Shultz said, "We must recognize that action sometimes means military action."

As a result of the April 15 bombing, he said, Col. "Qaddafi is in retreat, and Syria is uneasy — a reaction which may induce that country to think hard about involvement in murderous adventures."

Mr. Shultz, who has long advocated the use of force against terrorists, also said Western countries have to get over the idea that "covert is a dirty word."